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Curios and Relics  
China, Kitchenware, &  
Glassware  
Silver

Teapot Owned by  
Nancy Hanks Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

*news to tell*  
Tuesday, December 11, 1934.

### **FIND TEAPOT THAT MAY HAVE BELONGED TO LINCOLN'S MOTHER**

HUNTINGBURG, Ind., Dec. 11.—(I.N.S.)—Otis Alvey found a small silver teapot in a load of dirt taken from Lincoln City near here, which he believes was used by Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln.

The pot, four and one-half inches high, bears the inscription: "Benedict Indestrucot Sheffield Plate Nickel Silver 1398." It also had scratched upon it the initials "N. H. L." which were those of Lincoln's mother. The teapot was found about 150 feet from the site of the Lincoln cabin.

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### DID IT BELONG TO MRS. LINCOLN

Otis Alvey, of this city, is the finder of a small individual silver teapot which probably belonged to the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Alvey was driving through Lincoln City one day this week and was compelled to stop at the railroad crossing there because of a passing train. Along side the highway is a new section of railroad track recently built there to provide a Y for switching, and while waiting for a train to pass, he noticed a small, round object, the lid of the article, half embedded in the earth of the roadbed. Supposing it to be a silver dollar, he stepped from his car to pick it up and to his surprise unearthed a small teapot.

The pot is about four and a half inches high, made of Sheffield silver, and bears the following inscription of the manufacturer on the bottom: "Benedict Indestructo Sheffield Plate Nickle Silver," and the figures "1398," the latter probably being the year in which the article was manufactured in Sheffield, England. Under this inscription the letters "N H L," the initials of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, had been scratched with a knife or some other sharp tool. The article is complete except for the handle, which probably was of some other material and had slipped from its sockets and become separated from it. The spot where Mr. Alvey made the find is about 150 yards from the site of the Lincoln cabin. In building the new section of track it was necessary to construct a fill and it is supposed that in moving large quantities of earth to construct this fill the object was unearthed and thus became exposed.

Mr. Alvey has had several offers of neat sums for his find, but so far has refused to sell it.—Huntingburg Signal, of December 7, 1934.

